

great strength of this country is really not our military. It's not the fact that we're, you know, great and rich. It's the fact that our Nation is full of people with decent hearts and loving souls, people who are willing to take time out of their day to help a neighbor in need.

I believe that as a result of the evil done to America, many are taking a hard look at the values in their life. Moms and dads recognize that their most important job is to love their children with all their hearts and all their souls. Many citizens around our country are realizing that, while it's important to make a living, it's also important to serve something greater than yourself, your community. And it's happening. That's why I'm so optimistic that not only will we achieve peace, but we'll show the world the true face of America, a decent face, a hopeful face, a compassionate face.

It is an unimaginable honor to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And I'm the man with that honor.

Thank you for coming, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Hope Taft, wife of Governor Taft; Robert T. Bennett, chairman, Ohio Republican Party; and Tim Timken, finance chairman, Taft-Bradley Campaign. Mike Turner is a candidate for Congress in Ohio's Third Congressional District.

Statement on the End of the Standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

May 10, 2002

I am pleased by the nonviolent end to the standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Like the resolution to the situation in Ramallah, the positive result in Bethlehem was achieved through the efforts of a number of individuals and governments. In particular, I appreciate the efforts of personnel at our Embassy in Tel Aviv and our Consulate General in Jerusalem, which were critical to the outcome, and the work of the European Union.

The end of the standoff in Bethlehem is a positive development that removes an obstacle to restoring security cooperation between the parties and should advance the prospects for resuming a political process toward peace. As I said on April 4th, this can only happen if all parties assume their responsibilities for fighting terror and promoting peace.

Proclamation 7558—Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, 2002

May 10, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

In the face of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, our Nation witnessed the remarkable heroism of America's peace officers as they selflessly aided those in need. As the World Trade Center towers burned, dedicated officers rushed into the severely damaged buildings to rescue the injured. Seventy-two peace officers died that day, trying to save others. These supreme sacrifices remind us of the remarkable commitment that our Nation's peace officers have made to preserve our safety and our country's well-being.

In all, 230 law enforcement officers gave their lives in the line of duty last year. The name of each fallen officer has a place of honor on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial wall in Washington, D.C. This monument ensures that the valor of the more than 15,000 law enforcement officers lost since 1794 will never be forgotten.

Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week pay tribute to the local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers who serve and protect us with courage and dedication. These observances also remind us of the ongoing need to be vigilant against all forms of crime, especially to acts of extreme violence and terrorism.

Effective law enforcement is a crucial element to maintaining our quality of life; and we must continue to ensure that our police

have the financial, technical, and civil support necessary to carry out their responsibilities. The more than 740,000 sworn law enforcement officers who are our first responders play a critical role in our Nation's safety and security.

Every American should also play a role in making our communities safer. Programs operated through the Citizen Corps, including Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, and the Terrorism Information and Prevention System, offer citizens the opportunity to take a stand against crime. As we observe Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, I encourage all Americans to learn more about ways to fight crime in their communities and to honor the brave individuals who protect our lives and property.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended, (76 Stat. 676), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week," and, by Public Law 103-322, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 136), has directed that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2002, as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 12 through May 18, 2002, as Police Week. I call on Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes on that day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 14, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 15.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 4

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President met with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain. In the afternoon, he and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

May 5

The President declared a major disaster in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on April 28–May 3.

The President declared a major disaster in West Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and landslides on May 2 and continuing.

May 6

In the morning, the President traveled to Southfield, MI. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC. Later in the afternoon, he met with President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Preston Graves, John Roderick Davis, and Patrick Lloyd McCrory to be members of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michele Ridge as a member of the Board of Directors of the Student Loan Marketing Association.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Air Force Academy: Candace C. de Russey, John E. Kidde, Dionel E. Aviles, and James H. Harless.